



The nurse thought Jim was making **a mountain of a molehill**.



Play it by ear

to deal with things as they happen, you don't make plans for the future

- He never prepared his speeches, he always **played things by ear**.
- I don't know how to do it or what I'm doing, I'm just going to **play it by ear** and see how well it goes.

Sit on the fence

to refuse to give an opinion about something

- You can't **sit on the fence** any longer—you need to choose who of these two we need to fire.
- These people **sit on the fence** because they don't know which way to go.

Priorities and decisions



Split hairs

if someone splits hairs, they argue about very small details. Or they try to find differences between things which are really very similar

- Don't **split hairs**, I don't care whether he is 24 or 25.
- You lay out all the pros, the cons, you **split the hairs**, you go through every shade of gray.

Stick to your guns

to refuse to change your decision or opinion about something, even though other people are trying to tell you that you are wrong

- Once you tell your children to do something, **stick to your guns** even if they get upset.
- You should **stick to your guns** and focus on the people that matter to you.

Take a back seat

to allow other people to have the power or responsibility

- If you know anybody else who can manage this company, I will be happy to **take a back seat**.
- I **take a back seat** to nobody

The tip of the iceberg

if something is the tip of the iceberg, it is a small part of a very large problem

- We get about 2,000 complaints every year and that's just **the tip of the iceberg**.

Up in the air

if an important decision or plan is up in the air, that means, it hasn't been decided yet

- I was supposed to get a promotion this week but things are still **up in the air** because my boss is out of town.

Priorities and decisions